

6/11/07

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 11, 2007**

ATTENDEES:

Members:

William P. Allen, PhD
Mary S. Bevard-Cline, Rec. Sec.
Earl S. Beck, PhD
Mary Bevard-Cline
Rae Ann Butler
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair
Judy Hallman
Lloyd Hoover
Alan E. Imhoff, Alderman
Charles A. Jenkins, Commissioner
Ona M. John Kile
Louise Lynch
Margaret Nusbaum
Bernice Sewell
Burt Shawver
Susan Shelton
Anna Mary Snyder
Carolyn True

Excused

Sue M. Adams
Collier Baird

Unexcused:

Guests:

Robert Wannemacher,
AARP
Sandy Cobb, MD Dept
of Aging Secretary
Kitty Devilbiss, Fred. Co.
Dept. of Aging

- I. **Call to Order** – Hal Ehart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Hal Ehart welcomed all attendees and introductions/affiliations were made. Carolyn True introduced Sandra Cobb, Planning Analyst with the MD Department of Aging.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the April 9, 2007 meeting were approved on a motion by Pete Allen and seconded by Alan Imhoff. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Comments** – Commissioner Jenkins indicated the budget process has been completed; the BOCC will resume their monthly meetings. Lloyd Hoover questioned why the BOCC is reluctant to look at changing the form of Frederick county government? Commissioner Jenkins stated there have been 4 attempts by the Commissioners in the past. In order to move forward with a proposed change in the form, it was reiterated that we must gather 5% of the voting population or roughly, 6,500 voter signatures in order to make a proposal. When programs are Commissioner driven, it gives a different perception that there is a particular interest or hidden agenda. The BOCC just did not want to see a 5th failure in another attempt. Bob Wannemacker questioned the status of funding for Citizens Nursing and Rehabilitation and Montevue? Commissioner Jenkins stated said funding to remain. Commissioner Jenkins discussed a proposal the BOCC received from Erickson Continuing Care for a retirement community for 55 and older.

They have purchased 174 acres in Urbana across from the Urbana High School. This will be a 2,000-unit facility, which will require going before the zoning board to request a zoning change. Currently there are 19 nursing homes in the county with a total of 2,300 beds. This newly proposed facility would match it. Lloyd Hoover indicated that Homewood is planning to expand on 100 acres and Buckingham's Choice, which is land locked, is planning a similar expansion. With the influx of baby boomers coming, we need to look at this as a possibility of another Continuing Care Retirement Community in Frederick County. Robert Wannemacher reiterated that there are waiting lists and he feels this is very much needed.

- V. **Project Announcement** – Rae Ann Butler announced an upcoming project and distributed a cover letter announcing Edenton Retirement Community's development of a new cookbook to benefit the Meals on Wheels program of Frederick County. The advertising costs will underwrite the printing costs. She hopes to collect 300/400 recipes, which will be put in a spiral bound cookbook. Printing costs are estimated at \$4,000. The cookbooks will be for sale before the holidays.
- VI. **Area Plan – FY 2008 through 2011** – Carolyn True indicated that this meeting was advertised as a public hearing for the purpose of obtaining comment on the proposed FY2008-2011 Area Plan. She gave a brief synopsis of the FY08 Area Plan indicating the every 4 years the Department of Aging is required to update their area plan. This is the year to re-write our plan. The record will remain open until June 22, 2007 for any additional comments. We need to look at how we are going to fund programs, review approximately 15 grants from the MDoA and funding provided by the Federal, State and County. Carolyn noted that the county has been very supportive of our program, most of which goes to personnel costs. The minutes of today's meeting, the list of attendees and all comments will be included in this Plan. Carolyn then outlined 10 areas and they are as follows:
1. **Human Services** - will be included in the comprehensive plan. A comprehensive needs assessment of the growing aging population will be completed by 2010.
 2. **Partnership Development** - Continue the development of partnerships with private enterprise and service organizations due to funding shortages. These public/private partnerships will help strengthen advocacy for seniors that will help them age in place.
 3. **Title III E – Respite Care Agreements** - revised caregiver program so the client may choose who they want to provide respite care. The selected caregiver will be paid directly in lieu of using contracted services. This will give the family a choice as to who will provide care.
 4. **Partners In Care** – a chapter of this volunteer driven, service exchange program began in Frederick County in January 2007. This program helps older adults and disabled adults to remain independent in their home, which creates a sense of community through the service exchange concept. Office space and administrative assistance is provided by the Department of Aging.

5. **Train the Trainer Workshop** – in conjunction with the Health Department, provide training on fall prevention, complete environmental assessments of homes and make appropriate adaptations that will reduce the risk for falls, i.e. use of durable medical equipment, wearing appropriate footwear, assistance with dispersing medications via pill boxes, appropriate lighting, etc.
6. **Emergency Preparedness Plan** – this initiative discusses what citizen's need to do beforehand, i.e. development of an emergency preparedness kit, extra medications on hand, 3 day supply of drinking water, family emergency contact information, flashlights, batteries, etc.
7. **Food Bid for Congregate Meals** – this will go out for bid this summer. We considered unbundling food services so we can have several vendors provide food to various sites. However, this may not be feasible due to transportation issues, maintaining food temperatures, etc. We may not necessarily go with the lowest bidder in this process.
8. **Guardianship** – the Director of the Department of Aging is mandated to be the guardian of persons over 65 years old, declared incompetent by the Circuit Court. We receive \$18,000 from the State to operate the program. We currently have 16 clients in the Guardianship program. This is an unfunded mandate and additional funding is needed.
9. **Navigating the Nursing Home Journey** – this program helps people understand the process, their concerns, what to expect when a loved one enters a nursing facility, etc. We surveyed 2,000 county employees and received over 60 responses. The first series of classes were held in May 2007 with a good turnout. We will offer these classes again in the fall. We hope to use this as evidence based initiative so that we can share it with other counties.
10. **Senior Center Development** – The Urbana Senior Center serves clients from 8 different countries including Korea, Germany, China, Sri Lanka, Poland, India, Ecuador, and Peru. Due to language barriers, the Senior Center Coordinator sends written notes home to the family members so they may interpret communications to them. We are looking into the possibility of a new senior center in Middletown, MD. We have a property owner who is agreeable to having a senior center. This is in the CIP.

Susan Shelton presented a power point presentation of the \$2.3 million Department of Aging budget. Earl Beck expressed surprise in that the funding is decreasing while the number of people being served has increased and the cost of living has increased. Carolyn reiterated that we plan to continue to provide the same services to our clients. However, we closed 3 meal sites recently due to a lack of participation. The other senior centers are active. The numbers of MOW clients being served has grown but the congregate meals are decreasing.

Rae Ann Butler questioned if there are other programs under consideration that could produce a stream of revenue to benefit the department? Carolyn indicated that we are partnering with the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) in providing meeting room space, which will also act as a marketing/outreach tool.

Mr. Beck questioned if the Partners In Care and the county motor pool services overlap? Carolyn stated no as the PIC program is strictly a volunteer service. Volunteers use their own vehicles. However, the Transit Department just increased their fees from \$2.00 to \$4.00 round trip. Medical trips remain at \$1.00 each way.

Louise Lynch questioned what is being done in regards to outreach for seniors in the Latino population? Carolyn stated she is not sure how to go about marketing to this group of seniors, as many families are hesitant to reach out to the government for help.

In response to a question by Louise Lynch, Carolyn discussed the expansion of the Train-the-Trainer program to meet the needs of the low vision or hearing impaired population. We are working with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) in hopes of training someone to be able to go out into the community to assist these clients.

It was discussed that the Medicaid Waiver Program has a waiting list of 8,000 people. The list is presently closed. Often, the person expires before ever receiving services.

Robert Wannemacher stated that Medicare is lowering coverage for physicians.

It was questioned what the functions of an Ombudsman are? Carolyn indicated the Ombudsman is an advocate whose goal is to promote the highest quality of life and care for residents living in a long-term facility. They act in the client's best interest.

Carolyn reiterated that any additional comments are to be submitted to her by June 22, 2007 to be included in this Plan.

VII. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Bevard-Cline,
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2007, 1:00 pm at the Frederick County Department of Aging, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD. 21702. Please mark you calendars.